

Message

From: Ziegler, Sam [Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/2/2020 5:20:30 PM
To: Ross, Brian [Ross.Brian@epa.gov]; Chausson, Juliette [chausson.juliette@epa.gov]; Ota, Allan [Ota.Allan@epa.gov]; Scianni, Melissa [Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov]; Siu, Jennifer [Siu.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

FYSA re Montrose SF...

Sam Ziegler | Wetlands Section Manager | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 | Water Division | (415) 972-3399 | ziegler.sam@epa.gov

From: Torres, Tomas <Torres.Tomas@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>; Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

FYI for now. I'm unclear whether there is a CWA connection here or with our ocean dumping program. Nothing for us to act on at the moment.

Tomás Torres

From: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Busterud, John <Busterud.John@epa.gov>
Cc: Munoz, Charles <munoz.charles@epa.gov>; Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>; Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Torres, Tomas <Torres.Tomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

FYSA – Looks like we will be joining other HQs offices for a call next week regarding this matter. We will keep you posted.

From: Fonseca, Silvina <Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Donahue, Sean <donahue.sean@epa.gov>
Cc: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Ammon, Doug <Ammon.Doug@epa.gov>; Jeng, Terry <Jeng.Terry@epa.gov>; Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>; Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Sounds good!

From: Donahue, Sean <donahue.sean@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Fonseca, Silvina <Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov>
Cc: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Ammon, Doug <Ammon.Doug@epa.gov>; Jeng, Terry <Jeng.Terry@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Thank you, Silvina and OSRTI. OCIR should already have these, but I'll send them along just to be sure. I spoke with Holt a few minutes ago and he indicated that it's fine if we don't have answers to the questions given the short time to answer. I also relayed your suggestion to have a call with all the offices involved, so we will likely have a call early next week.

Best regards,

Sean M. Donahue

Special Advisor

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1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

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O: (202) 564-5007

Donahue.Sean@epa.gov

From: Fonseca, Silvina <Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 12:50 PM

To: Donahue, Sean <donahue.sean@epa.gov>

Cc: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Ammon, Doug <Ammon.Doug@epa.gov>; Jeng, Terry <Jeng.Terry@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Importance: High

Sean,

See Enrique's email below with their RA's talking points for a meeting with the Senator's office that can be useful for OCIR. Let me know if you have any next steps.

From: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 12:09 PM

To: Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>; Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>

Cc: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Ammon, Doug <Ammon.Doug@epa.gov>; Jeng, Terry <jeng.Terry@epa.gov>; Fonseca, Silvina <Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov>; DeLeon, Rafael <DeLeon.Rafael@epa.gov>; Mackey, Cyndy <Mackey.Cyndy@epa.gov>; Rongone, Marie <Rongone.Marie@epa.gov>; Quast, Sylvia <Quast.Sylvia@epa.gov>; Minor, Dustin <Minor.Dustin@epa.gov>; Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Barton, Dana <Barton.Dana@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>; Glenn, William <Glenn.William@epa.gov>; Butler, Thomas <Butler.Thomas@epa.gov>; Torres, Tomas <Torres.Tomas@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Importance: High

Thanks Sheila.

Yes Silvina passed along the message below. Thanks Silvina!

In addition to the points Silvina raises, the Montrose Superfund site has a VERY complex litigation history which is still unfolding, unfortunately. In addition, both NOAA and DOI as well as the State are key stakeholders in any matter regarding these off shore dump sites because of their status as Natural Resource trustees and their Montrose related

litigation. The SCCWRP report says the dump sites were permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of California (Regional Water Quality Control boards).

To start, I've attached the talking points we provided the RA in preparation for his conversation with the Senator's office. As a follow up to that conversation, we have provided the Senator's office the 1973 public SCCWRP report which identified these dump sites and will provide them contacts in both NOAA and DOI.

I hope the talking points provide a starting point for our colleagues in OCIR as to the complexity of answering the questions they are posing.

Enrique

From: Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:25 AM

To: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>; Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>

Cc: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Ammon, Doug <Ammon.Doug@epa.gov>; Jeng, Terry <jeng.Terry@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Hi Enrique and John,

Silvina has probably already forwarded her email, but I wanted to make sure everyone is looped in. I'm sure we'll all be in touch soon.

S-

Sheila Fleming, P.E.

Acting Deputy Director

OLEM/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Phone: 206-303-8126

From: Fonseca, Silvina <Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:18 AM

To: Donahue, Sean <donahue.sean@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>

Cc: Ammon, Doug <Ammon.Doug@epa.gov>; Jeng, Terry <jeng.Terry@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Good morning Sean,

I believe this request went to Region 9 so we should try to coordinate our response back to OCIR. However, in the interest of time, before making any conclusions about site expansion, EPA would have to confirm the existence of the drums and determine if there is contamination and its relationship to the current Superfund Site. Regardless of whether this becomes part of the current Superfund Site EPA should (and that is why we need Region 9 to weigh in) do an assessment of this information and determine if action is needed. Region 9 I am sure has information on this issue.

I will defer to OSRTI and OGC on the process for expanding a Superfund Site, should that decision be made by EPA senior leadership.

If you would like to schedule a quick call with OSRTI to discuss please let me know and I can assist.

Silvina Fonseca
Senior Advisor
Office of Land and Emergency Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Desk: 202.564.1955
Cell: 202.306.6844

From: Donahue, Sean <donahue.sean@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Fonseca, Silvina <Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Fleming, Sheila <fleming.sheila@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Good morning,

I have a somewhat urgent question for you from OCIR.

Senator Feinstein has asked about EPA the possibly expanding the Montrose Chemical / Palos Verdes Superfund site in Torrance, California. From what I can see, the DDT Barrel dumpsite is about 10-20 miles away from the SF site. I would also note that it's also about 3,000 feet down, as opposed to 200 feet down at the Superfund site.

Is there mechanism to extend the SF site out to these barrels—perhaps by creating an additional OU or some other means? If so, what does the process look like? Are there any constraints, considerations, etc. (practicality/funding, limits on the program, or the distance from the short/proximity to international waters)?

Best regards,

Sean M. Donahue
Special Advisor
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Donahue.Sean@epa.gov

From: Edwards, John (Holt) <edwards.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Tran, Victoria <tran.victoria@epa.gov>; Donahue, Sean <donahue.sean@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Munoz, Charles <munoz.charles@epa.gov>
Cc: Busterud, John <Busterud.John@epa.gov>
Subject: Memo for the Administrator on LA Times Article

Vicki, Sean, and Kaitlyn,

Last night, John Busterud had a call with Senator Feinstein on a recent [LA Time article](#) that outlined how barrels of DDT were dumped in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California over a thirty year period from the 40's to the 70's. Senator Feinstein was very concerned about this issue and was asking what could be done from an EPA standpoint on this issue. This morning, Joe informed me that the Administrator has asked for a brief one pager containing information from both of your offices as well as R9. I believe I have the full background information from the talking points that were sent to John that I will forward to you momentarily in a separate email.

Vicki, if you could pull the enforcement history on this issue against the manufacturer Montrose that would be very helpful. Senator Feinstein asked several times if we were aware of the amount of barrels that were dumped over that time span. I am not sure if that information or even an estimate is something that OECA would have, but I thought I would ask.

Sean and Kaitlyn, there is a Superfund site just offshore that is a DDT contaminated area called the Palos Verdes Superfund site. This area was the result of Montrose dumping DDT into the sewer system which wound up in the ocean just offshore. Senator Feinstein asked if it was possible to extend this Superfund site to include the deep water disposal site where the barrels are. Please have your office look into that question.

Charles, I believe I have most of the background information that I need from R9. However, if there are any additional details that I need to be aware of, please pass those along.

I apologize for the slight fire drill on this. The information does not need to be overly extensive, but Joe did ask that I get the ball rolling to see if it was possible to get this to the Administrator for his review over the weekend. If you can just send the information here on this chain, I will compile everything into memo format and submit it to his binder.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions on this issue.

Holt

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